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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/515,338	02/29/2000	J. Larry Summers	067575.0104	1918

7590 02/26/2004

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EXAMINER

BUI, BING Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2642

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/515,338

Applicant(s)

SUMMERS ET AL.

Examiner

Bing Q Bui

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 23-56 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10 / Dec 30, 2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-56 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 U&C § 103

2. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henneuse et al (US Pat No. 5,963,913) in view of Eaton et al (US Pat No. 5,483,588), herein after referred as Henneuse and Eaton.

Regarding claim 1, Henneuse teaches a system for scheduling a conference between callers, comprising:

a database operable to store scheduling information indicating at least a start time, a duration, and a maximum number of callers for one or more scheduled conferences, the scheduling information reflecting available conferencing resources (see Fig 5 and col. 5, ln 39-col. 6, ln 10);

a server complex coupled to the database and operable to:

communicate, to' a requesting Internet Protocol (IP) user, at least one page comprising one or more scheduling input fields (see Figs 3 and col. 4, ln 58-col. 5, ln 17);

receive scheduling input from the requesting IF user for a requested conference according to the scheduling input fields (see Figs 3 and col. 4, ln 58-col. 5, ln 17);

Henneuse differs from claimed invention in which it does not explicitly teach:

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access the database to determine, according to the scheduling input, whether sufficient conferencing resources are available for the requested conference;

if sufficient conferencing resources are available, allocate at least some available conferencing resources to the requested conference; and

in response to determining sufficient resources are available, generate confirmations of the requested conference for communication to the callers.

However, Eaton teaches:

access the database to determine, according to the scheduling input, whether sufficient conferencing resources are available for the requested conference (see Fig 6 and col 10, Ins 54-65);

if sufficient conferencing resources are available, allocate at least some available conferencing resources to the requested conference (see Fig 6 and col 10, Ins 54-65); and

in response to determining sufficient resources are available, generate confirmations of the requested conference for communication to the callers (see Fig 6 and col 10, Ins 54-65).

Therefore, integrating Eaton's teachings into conferencing system of Henneuse would have been obvious for assuring quality of service provided to customers.

Regarding claim 2, Henneuse further teaches the scheduling input indicates at least a start time, a duration, and a maximum number of callers for the requested conference (See Fig 5 and col. 5, Ins 39-60).

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Regarding claim 3, Henneuse further teaches the scheduling input further comprises a caller identifier for one or more callers (See Fig 5 and col. 5, Ins 39-60).

Regarding claim 4, Henneuse further teaches the scheduling information specifies a type of confirmation each caller is to receive (See Fig 5 and col. 5, Ins 39-60).

Regarding claim 5, Henneuse further teaches the confirmation for a public switched telephone network (PSTN) caller provides a conference telephone number-, and the confirmation for an Internet Protocol (IP) caller provides an IP address (see Fig 3 and col. 4, In 58-col. 5, In 17).

Regarding claim 6, Henneuse further teaches the confirmation provides a conference telephone number and a conference Internet Protocol address (see Fig 3 and col. 4, In 58-col. 5, In 17).

Regarding claim 7, Henneuse further teaches the confirmation provides conference entry information selected from the group consisting of a conference identifier; and a conference password (see Fig 3 and col. 4, In 58-col. 5, In 17).

Regarding claim 8, Henneuse further teaches the confirmation further provides a caller identifier for the particular caller receiving the confirmation (see Figs 4-5 and col. 5, Ins 17-60).

Regarding claim 9, Henneuse further teaches the confirmation provides instructions for joining the conference to each caller, each caller being selected from the group consisting of a public switched telephone network (PSTN) caller; and an Internet Protocol (IP) caller (see Figs 4-5 and col. 5, Ins 17-60).

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Regarding claim 10, Eaton further teaches the server complex is further operable, if sufficient conferencing resources are not available, to generate alternative scheduling information for the requested conference, and communicate the alternative scheduling information to the requesting IP user for acceptance (see Fig 8 and col 12, Ins 13-44). Therefore, integrating Eaton's teachings into conferencing system of Henneuse would have been obvious for assuring quality of service provided to customers.

Regarding claim 11, Henneuse further teaches the server complex comprises at least a web server (see Fig 1 and col. 2, ln 27-col. 3, ln 8).

As to claims 12-22, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth to rejecting claims 1 -11 above, since claims 12-2'2 are merely a method of operation for the system defined in the system claims 1 -11.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 23-56 are allowed.
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bing Bui whose telephone number is (703) 308-5858. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7-30 to 5-00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar, can be reached on (703) 305-4731. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306

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and for formal communications intended for entry (please label the response "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE") or for informal or draft communications not intended for entry (please label the response "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT").

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Feb 17, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bing Bui", written in a cursive style.

BING BUI
PATENT EXAMINER